

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CDF ADOPTS NEW SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PLAN FOR JACKSON STATE FOREST: CREATES LARGEST BLOCK OF FUTURE OLD GROWTH FOREST BETWEEN SAN FRANCISCO AND HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Sacramento – Andrea Tuttle, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) today adopted a final management plan for the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) in Mendocino County. “This plan, combined with new and existing state park land, will create for the future the largest block of old growth redwood forest between San Francisco and Humboldt County,” stated Andrea Tuttle, CDF Director. “True to its legislative mandate, the Jackson Forest will continue to demonstrate sustainable timber harvesting while protecting environmental values, providing outstanding recreational opportunities, and boosting the regional economy,” she added. “Jackson DSF is one of few places in the country where scientists can conduct research on forests over long periods of time. This will be an exciting challenge for scientists to take the mixed forest ages now present and accelerate their development into old growth forest and habitat for future generations,” added Director Tuttle.

“The partnership of CDF and State Parks provides an extraordinary opportunity to create a huge block of old growth redwood forest,” stated Mary Nichols, Secretary of the Resources Agency. At more than 13,000 acres, this old growth forest in the Big River-Russian Gulch area will be larger by 50% than the Headwaters Forest. “Our vision is to recreate a large, old growth redwood forest with habitat for endangered species, including coho salmon and the marbled murrelet, as a natural legacy for the future,” added Secretary Nichols. “We are committed to planning that considers the seventh generation,” she added. The State Parks will provide a control for the demonstration project. The four state parks surrounding JDSF are: Russian Gulch, Mendocino Woodlands, Van Damme, and the new Big River.

The final plan is subject to approval by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. “The JDSF plan provides critical information and direction that is essential in resolving conflicts over complex forest management issues,” stated Patti Campbell, Mendocino County Supervisor. “This welcome plan strikes the right balance between protecting old growth forest and promoting the economic stability of our region,” added Campbell.

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In fulfilling its research, education, and demonstration role, the JDSF plan will demonstrate new techniques in sustainable forestry. Except where part of a scientific research and education project, traditional clear cut logging will be eliminated. Instead, the JDSF plan will rely on a combination of selective logging, group selection and variable retention to manage the rest of the forest. In the latter, varying numbers of trees are left within cut patches to provide structural diversity in the new stand as the area regrows. As a result, watersheds will continue to provide wildlife habitat and high water quality. The appearance of the forest will be less altered than with traditional clearcutting. Research will continue to test methods for recovering fish habitat and stream-side protection zones affected by logging practices in the past.

Unlike a state park, the Jackson is required by state law to be a working forest. In response, CDF has been actively demonstrating sustainable forestry at Jackson DSF since the state acquired this cut-over land beginning in 1946. "The Jackson Demonstration State Forest plays a unique role by serving as a world class, living laboratory for research and education. Currently, twenty-five scientific projects are underway including research on water quality, endangered salmon recovery, spotted owl habitat relationships, Sudden Oak Death, and invasive weeds," stated Bob Ziemer, retired Chief Research Hydrologist, USDA Forest Service and key scientist conducting research at Jackson for 40 years. "The State Forest is essential for developing and testing the latest theories about sustainable resource management. Research on the Forest shows landowners and the public how to maximize environmental protection while harvesting timber for wood and paper products," added Dr. Ziemer.

Copies of the final plan will be available sometime the week of October 1 on the CDF website at www.fire.ca.gov and at the CDF offices in Santa Rosa at 135 Ridgeway Avenue, in Fort Bragg at 802 North Main St., and in Willits at 17501 North Highway 101.

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